



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 5, 2018

Contact: Royce Thompson
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Final-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Sepp Straka	64-65-64-69—262 (-22)
2	Kyle Jones	63-66-63-71—263 (-21)
3	Sam Burns	66-64-70-66—266 (-18)

Sepp Straka earns first Web.com Tour victory at KC Golf Classic

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. – Sepp Straka entered the week No. 130 on the Web.com Tour Regular Season money list, in danger of losing his status for next season. The 25-year-old from Vienna, Austria had missed eight cuts in 19 starts and signed up for the Web.com Tour Qualifying Tournament in anticipation of the inevitable. Players that finish outside the top 100 on the money list have no status on Tour the following season.

“It was definitely a reality that I had a good chance of going back there,” said Straka. “I just had to keep sticking with it. You never know what can happen on this Tour. One tournament can change your whole year.”

With his future in question, Straka never strayed from the plan. The former University of Georgia Bulldog trusted the process and won the KC Golf Classic by one stroke over Kyle Jones.

“It’s awesome,” said Straka, who moved to No. 29 on the money list with his victory. “The season hadn’t been good. I felt like I was playing good golf but struggled with my putting halfway through the season and got that straightened out.

“The last three cuts I missed, I felt like I was playing good golf; just wasn’t getting the results I wanted,” he continued. “I knew I was pretty close to playing good golf and just stuck with it. I had a lot of encouragement from my family and friends. Without them, I definitely couldn’t have done it.”

Two-time Web.com Tour winner Brice Garnett, who also won the 2018 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship on the PGA TOUR this season, offered words of encouragement throughout this tough season. Garnett and Straka play golf together in Valdosta, Georgia all the time when they are home and have become extremely close. Fans in the gallery were even keeping Garnett, who is from nearby Gallatin, informed on how Straka was playing.

“He has been texting me throughout the year, just telling me to stick with it and keep believing,” said Straka, when asked about Garnett.

The line between winning and missing the cut is thin. Straka believed he was close to playing good golf and the results would come if he stayed patient. His perseverance paid off in Overland Park and now Straka can set his sights on trying to earn his PGA TOUR card.

“This win is huge,” he said. “It gives me a chance to take advantage of the next two events, but I need to take it one tournament at a time.”

Straka attended college in Athens and comes from a traditional powerhouse known for churning out some of the best professional golfers the game has seen. The University of Georgia breeds excellence inside the ropes. With players like

Rex Hospital Open champion Joey Garber and Web.com Tour Qualifying Tournament medalist Lee McCoy coming out, it's no secret their alumni enjoy success after school. Straka believes his alma mater prepared him for life as a touring professional.

"The system they have there is great," said Straka, when asked why UGA has so many players on the Web.com Tour and PGA TOUR. "Every tournament we played, you had to qualify for. I think it really just prepares you to stay competitive. You have to qualify for every event. There are a lot of good players there; you're never safe, no matter how good you're playing."

This week, the PGA TOUR paid tribute to Jarrod Lyle, who decided to end his treatment for leukemia, by wearing yellow ribbons on their hats. Lyle graduated from the Web.com Tour twice in his professional golf career, winning two times in 2008. His courageous fight inspires people all over the world, including Straka, who doesn't know Lyle but was moved by his story.

"I went to dinner with Curtis Luck on Monday, and he talked about how much Jarrod meant to him and his life," said Straka. "He has touched a lot of people out here. It's just a sad story."

Sunday Notes:

* Sunday weather: Partly cloudy. High: 95, Winds: S 10-20 mph.

* The KC Golf Classic is the 21st of 23 Regular Season events on the Web.com Tour. The first 25 of 50 available PGA TOUR cards for 2018-19 will be determined when the Regular Season concludes at the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft Heinz on Aug. 19.

About Sepp Straka

HEIGHT: 6-3 WEIGHT: 235

BIRTHDATE: May 1, 1993

BIRTHPLACE: Vienna, Austria

RESIDENCE: Athens, Georgia

EDUCATION: University of Georgia (2016, Business Management)

TURNED PROFESSIONAL: 2016

JOINED TOUR: 2017

* Local favorite Chris Thompson finished the week T4 and moved to No. 34 on the money list. Thompson entered the week No. 43 on the money list with top-10s including a T3 at the Price Cutter Charity Championship.

* After a solo third at the KC Golf Classic, Sam Burns has moved to No. 2 on the money list. He trailed Sungjae Im by \$98,448.

Scoring Average for Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate for the week:

	Front (35)	Back (36)	Total (71)
Round 1:	35.098	34.519	69.618
Round 2:	35.430	35.013	70.444
Round 3:	34.130	34.522	68.652
Round 4:	35.000	35.072	70.072
Cumulative:	35.041	34.774	69.815

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